



PRESS RELEASE:

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**[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) announces recipients for [San Diego Art Prize](#) in 2021.**

SAN DIEGO (Feb. 23, 2021) – San Diego Visual Arts Network is pleased to announce the four artist recipients of the 2021 San Diego Art Prize. [Beliz Iristay](#), [Hugo Crosthwaite](#), [PANCA](#), and [Perry Vásquez](#) were chosen from the nomination list submitted by 17 arts professionals from our arts community.

The San Diego Art Prize recipients reflect the rich and varied bi-national experience that makes our region truly unique. Living and working on either side of the border, whether they are US or Mexican born, immigrant or mixed national parents, all experience this bi-national life from an individual vantage point. They share their singular vision through their art, enriching our community with their stories.



This year's SD Art Prize is a memorial to our dear friend and committee member **Larry Baza**. Larry was a beacon of hope at a time when we in Southern California seemed poised to step up and be recognized for the excellence of our programming and the quality of the art in our region. We think memorializing him in this small way will be one of the many honors bestowed on Larry and carried on in his name.

This year's the SD Art Prize will be launched at [RAVE | Focus San Diego](#) March 3 to 7, 2021, a virtual art fair experience. The artists will be interviewed on Friday, March 5 in video session on challenges for artists.

[RAVE SD Art Prize 2021 promotion](#)

[RAVE SD Art Prize 2021 Interviews](#)

[RAVE SD Art Prize 2021 Patricia Frischer introduction](#)

The SD Art Prize annual exhibit will be held at [Bread & Salt](#) gallery in the Barrio Logan neighborhood from Sat, Oct. 9 to Fri - Dec. 31, 2021. To give an international audience a taste of their work, this will be preceded this year, with a booth at [Art San Diego](#) from Thursday Sept 31 to Sunday, Oct 3, 2021.

See artists' bios and photos below.

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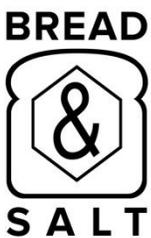


The SD Art Prize committee has added four new members to better encompass the diverse San Diego creative communities. In late 2020 the SD Art Prize Committee added two new advisory committee members **Felicia Shaw**, executive director of the Women's Museum of California and **Arturo Rodriguez**, director of La Caja Galería, Tijuana, Mexico. In early 2020 two new members were added to the SD Art Prize Committee: **Alessandra Moctezuma**, director of Mesa College Gallery and **Larry Baza**, chairman of the California Arts Council. They join **Erika Torri** director of The Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, **Debra Poteet**, collector, **Chi Essary**, SD Art Prize curator/administrator, and **Patricia Frischer** founder of the San Diego Visual Arts Network. This committee and a changing independent panel of judges selected from the arts community of museum directors, journalists, curators, educators, the previous year's SD Art Prize recipients, submitted nominations for artists who have exhibited outstanding creativity in the last three years and have contributed their talent to our arts community.

The [SD ART PRIZE](#) is dedicated to the idea that the visual arts are a necessary and rewarding ingredient of any world-class city and a building block of the lifestyle of its residents. Conceived to promote and encourage dialogue, reflection and social interaction about San Diego's artistic and cultural life, this annual award honors artistic expression. The **SD ART PRIZE**, a cash prize with exhibition opportunities, spotlights artists in the San Diego to Ensenada, Mexico, region whose outstanding achievements in the field of visual arts merit the recognition.

[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) strives to improve the clarity, accuracy and sophistication of discourse about San Diego's artistic and cultural life. SDVAN provides a resource-rich website and facilitates countless opportunities for inspiration and collaboration on visual arts projects. This is the only site designed exclusively for Visual Arts in the San Diego region. SDVAN is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to reinforcing the idea that the visual arts are a necessary and vital part of the health of our city. SDVAN list over 2500 visual arts resources and gets about one million hits a year.

[Art San Diego](#) a contemporary art show in the heart of southern California featuring an international slate of artists and galleries. The show features over 500 leading contemporary artists, museum exhibitions, Art Labs, SD Art Prize, events, and Art Talks focused on collecting. Now in its eleventh year, the four-day event attracts over 15,000 high-net-worth collectors. Since its inception in 2009, Art San Diego has become one of the leading cultural events and inspired attendees from all over the world. ASD 2019 aims to play a key role in San Diego's rich array of cultural events, nurturing and strengthening the city's art scene with a dynamic agenda.



[Bread & Salt](#) is a 45,000 square-foot gallery and experimental center for the arts with strong community ties. Located 15 miles north of the U.S./Mexico border in San Diego, CA, Bread & Salt hosts original works by local and international artists, eclectic events, and a curated assemblage of artisans, educational entities, and non-profit tenants - alongside a robust residency program and publishing house. It is comprised of multiple galleries, studios, and event spaces, and serves as a cultural hub and gathering place for the region's creative community.



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## SD Art Prize 2021 Recipients

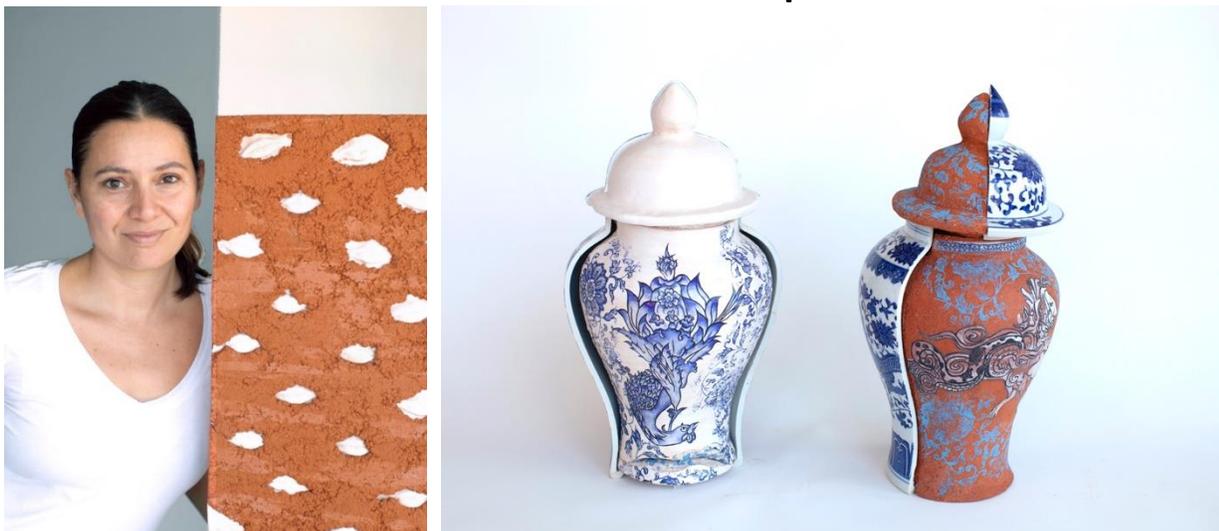


Photo credit:

### Beliz Iristay

Beliz Iristay is a Turkish-American ceramic and mix-media artist, born in Izmir, Turkey, and lives as a “border artist” between Baja California, Mexico and San Diego, California with her family.

Iristay studied traditional Turkish ceramics at Izmir Dokuz Eylul University where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics. She moved to the United States in 2005 and recently built her ceramic studio in the Guadalupe Valley, Ensenada, Mexico. There she incorporates local clay into her practice while exploring traditional & contemporary ceramics.



In her work, Iristay often uses the traditions of her "home countries", Turkey, Mexico, and the US, and combines them with contemporary techniques. She collects the subject materials for her work from the traditions, politics and gender issues of the countries she lives in.

Iristay has shown work in the Bienal de Estandartes, Tijuana, Mexico; Balboa Park Centennial, San Diego, CA; El Paso Museum of Border Art, El Paso, TX; El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX; LUX Art Institute, Encinitas, CA; and many more. Her installation at the El Paso Museum of Art Border Biennale won first prize and she has won individual prizes in the National Ceramic Biennale of Mexico; 4th National Ceramic Biennale of California, Brea, CA; and UNICOM Jury's choice, International Ceramic Biennale, Ljubliana, Slovenia. She was first nominated for the SD Art Prize in 2015 and became a SD Art Prize recipient in 2021.



## Hugo Crosthwaite

Hugo Crosthwaite was born in Tijuana and spent his formative years in Rosarito, Mexico. An American citizen with family on both sides of the border, he graduated from San Diego State University in 1997 with a BA in Applied Arts. Crosthwaite lives and works in Rosarito, Mexico and San Diego, CA.



Allowing the act of drawing to dictate his compositions in works that range from intimate drawings to large scale murals, Hugo Crosthwaite juxtaposes a wide range of textural and tonal ranges with a deep respect for the narrative.

Crosthwaite is the 2019 winner of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. His works are included in the permanent collections Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; San Diego Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, CA; Boca Raton Museum of Art, FL; the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL; The Progressive Art Collection, and numerous private collections around the world.



PANCA



Born in Chula Vista, CA, to Mexican parents, PANCA is an Illustrator-Painter-Muralist- Installation Artist that resides in Tijuana, Mexico. She grew up speaking English at school and the "outside" while exclusively speaking Spanish at home and spending weekends and all holidays with family in Mexico. Her parents felt it very important to keep her connected to her heritage. She has been working between Mexico and the United States since 2004.

This binational, bilingual and bicultural artist feeds her art from her experiences living and working in Tijuana and San Diego. These very personal yet contrasting experiences fill her work with raw emotion, isolation and nostalgia as it pours out full of symbolism.

Her work has shown in museums, galleries, magazines, Netflix movie sets, on the streets and tattoo design. Her most recent work was featured in a fully published book in partnership with Bread & Salt gallery.



Perry Vásquez

Perry Vásquez was trained as an artist and designer. He lives in the San Diego/Tijuana area and draws inspiration from the region's bi-national cultural milieu. His father was born in East Chicago, Indiana, into a family of Mexican migrant workers. His mother was born in West Virginia, as a coal miner's daughter. His parents met in Los Angeles where he was born in 1959. At age 7 his parents divorced and his mother subsequently relocated him and his brother to North Carolina where they took up temporary residence with their grandmother who lived next door to a free-will Baptist



church. A Catholic son of Southern California, he was abruptly dropped into a predominantly white, Protestant, evangelical cultural environment where his odyssey as an Appala-Chicano began. Since then he has blended both Mexican, American, Catholic and Protestant cultural influences into his work. He has a life-long love of learning and has degrees in Political Science and Painting from Stanford University and Painting and Criticism from UC San Diego.

Vásquez is co-creator of the *Keep on Crossin'*, a seminal project in the development of the San Diego/Tijuana border art scene. Vásquez has produced a range of works across different media. Among his other works are *The Gates of Heck*, inspired by the mythologies of superhero-dom and Rodin's *Porte de l'Enfer*, and *Under the Perfect Sun*, a series of paintings that explore the myths of Southern California and its changing landscape. Vásquez was recently selected to create murals for the new San Diego County Probation Building and has work in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.